Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~providing driver-independent, printer-independent page manipulation options in a printing system~~ creating a page-independent spool file index, said method comprising:

reading ~~creating~~ a spool data file for a document;

creating a Page-Independent Spool File (PISF) index file ~~from~~ based on data in said spool data file, wherein said PISF index file reorganizes document-wide, persistent, page formatting data in said spool data file into independent units corresponding to each page of said document~~;~~ ~~and~~

~~allowing user manipulation of said PISF index file, after creation of said index file, to effect document page format manipulation options; and~~

~~accessing said PISF index file to execute a print job~~.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein said spool data file is a Microsoft Windows Job Description File~~ further comprising providing a user interface for user manipulation of said PISF index file, after creation of said index file, to effect document page format manipulation options.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein said manipulating comprises re-ordering of pages in said document ~~PISF index file comprises an independent record of each page in said spool data file~~.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein said user manipulation is performed via a spooler user interface.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said PISF index file is created by a process that is independent of the process that created said spool data file.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said PISF index file is created by a modified print processor.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said PISF index file is stored independently of said spool data file.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said PISF index file is created by a print system component other than the component that creates said spool data file.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein said manipulation of said PISF index file comprises changing collation options.

10. (currently amended) A method for ~~providing~~ performing document formatting options in a printing system, said method comprising:

~~creating a Page-Independent Spool File (PISF) index file; and~~

manipulating ~~said~~ a PISF index file to effect document formatting options ~~by user input~~ after creation of said PISF index file, wherein said PISF index file comprises document-wide, persistent, page formatting data from a spool data file that has been reorganized into independent units corresponding to each page of a document~~; and~~

~~accessing said manipulated PISF index file to execute a print job~~.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said ~~creating, said manipulating and said accessing are accomplished with a print processor~~ manipulating comprises changing the order of a page in said document.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said ~~creating, said manipulating and said accessing are accomplished through a spooler~~ manipulating comprises changing collation options for said document.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said ~~creating, said~~ manipulating ~~and said accessing are~~ is accomplished through a print assistant between a driver and a printer.

14. (currently amended) A method for ~~adding~~ obtaining page-independent print data in ~~document formatting capability to~~ a printing system, said method comprising:

reading a PISF index file, wherein said PISF index file comprises document-wide, persistent, page formatting data from a spool data file that has been reorganized into independent units corresponding to each page of a document; and

accessing data indexed in said independent units to form a print job.

~~providing a print system component with the~~

~~initiating a print job for a document;~~

~~creating a PISF index file;~~

~~modifying said PISF index file through user input, from said print processor after creation of said PISF index file; and~~

~~accessing said PISF index file, from said print processor, to obtain document formatting information for printing.~~

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein said PISF index file is produced by a print processor.

16. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein said PISF index file is produced by a spooler.

17. (original)The method of claim 14 wherein said PISF index file is produced by a print system component in a print system between a driver and a printer.

18. (currently amended) A printing system with driver-independent, printer-independent document formatting, said system comprising:

~~a print processor comprising:~~

a reader for reading a spool data file for a document;

an indexer for converting document-wide, persistent, page formatting data in said spool data file into independent, page-related units, thereby creating a page-independent spool file (PISF) index file~~;~~

~~a modifier for modifying said index file to effect document formatting options in response to user input wherein said modifying occurs after creation of said index file; and~~

~~a reader for accessing said manipulated index file to execute a modified print job~~.

19. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for ~~driver-independent, printer-independent document formatting~~ creating a page-independent spool file (PISF) index file, said instructions comprising the acts of:

reading a spool data file for a document; and

converting document-wide, persistent, page formatting data in said spool data file into independent, page-related units, thereby creating a (PISF) index file.

~~creating a page-independent index file;~~

~~manipulating said index file to effect document formatting options after creation of said index file; and~~

~~accessing said manipulated index file to execute a print job.~~

20. (canceled)